

13th March 2015

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Re: The Regulator of Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2014

I am writing with regard to the Regulator of Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2014, to state my support for the introduction and implementation of the Bill.

I am the grandmother of an 8 year old boy with uncontrolled epilepsy. He has Electrical Status Epilepticus in Sleep, which means that whenever he is sleeping he is having seizures. This was the result of a failed suction cup delivery which caused a bleed on his brain, which caused Hydrocephalus. He has had many operations, the first being at 4 months to insert a shunt. At 13 months the shunt got infected, which led to Meningitis and Ventriculitis which were damaging to his brain. Currently his conditions are Hydrocephalus, Cerebral Palsy, Cortical Vision Impairment, Developmental Delay (Intellectual Impairment) and Epilepsy.

My grandson has tried 9 different epileptic drugs, including the two he is on now. He has uncontrolled or refractory epilepsy which means he is unlikely to become seizure free with the conventional drugs currently legally available. He is already on an adult dose for two of his anti- epileptic medications.

Doctors are recommending adding a steroid to his treatment plan. The parents are unwilling to take this step, as they have not heard any good results from this. Instead they are requesting legal access to Medicinal Cannabis, as medicine for their son.

Please refer to the submission put in by my daughter Hazel Lloyd regarding her Response to the Regulator of Medical Cannabis Bill 2014. The parents want the choice to prepare/produce cannabis medicine for their son, or to have access to a reputable manufacturer who would prepare medicinal cannabis to treat his epilepsy. Hopefully, with Government regulation, this will be of the highest possible standard.

Thank you for reading my submission, in conjunction with my daughter's, with regard to the Regulator or Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2014

Margriet Hendriksen